

**Pending Claims 18-35, As Amended**

18. A variant vascular endothelial cell growth factor (VEGF) polypeptide which is capable of binding to a VEGF receptor without significantly inducing a VEGF response, said variant polypeptide comprising an amino acid modification of at least one cysteine residue in VEGF, wherein said amino acid modification inhibits disulfide bond formation.
19. The variant VEGF polypeptide according to claim 18 wherein said amino acid modification is a substitution of said at least one cysteine residue with a different amino acid which is incapable of participating in the formation of a disulfide bond.
20. The variant VEGF polypeptide according to claim 19 wherein said cysteine is at amino acid position 51 and/or 60.
21. The variant VEGF polypeptide according to claim 18 wherein said VEGF polypeptide is capable of inhibiting induction of a VEGF response.
22. The variant VEGF polypeptide according to claim 21 wherein said variant VEGF response is mitogenic activity.
23. The variant VEGF polypeptide according to claim 19 wherein two cysteines are substituted with a different amino acid at amino acid positions 51 and 60.
24. The variant VEGF polypeptide according to claim 19 wherein said cysteine is at amino acid position 51.
25. The variant VEGF polypeptide according to claim 19 wherein said cysteine is at amino acid position 60.

26. The variant VEGF polypeptide according to claim 19 wherein aspartic acid is substituted for cysteine.
27. The variant VEGF polypeptide according to claim 24 comprising the substitution C51D.
28. The variant VEGF polypeptide according to claim 25 comprising the substitution C60D.
29. The variant VEGF polypeptide according to claim 18 wherein said amino acid modification is a chemical modification of said at least one cysteine residue which renders said cysteine residue incapable of participating in the formation of a disulfide bond.
30. The variant VEGF polypeptide according to claim 29 wherein said chemical modification is of a cysteine residue at amino acid position 51 and/or 60 of the native VEGF amino acid sequence.
31. An isolated nucleic acid sequence comprising a sequence that encodes the variant VEGF polypeptide of claim 18.
32. A replicable expression vector capable in a transformant host cell of expressing the nucleic acid of claim 31.
33. Host cells transformed with the vector according to claim 32.
34. Host cells according to claim 33 which are Chinese hamster ovary cells.
35. A composition of matter comprising the variant VEGF polypeptide according to claim 18 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.